
FY 2019
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **November 7, 2018**.

(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)

Project Name	Swartz Meadow Beaver Dam Analogs
District Name (or "Forestwide")	Salmon River Ranger District
County where project located?	Idaho
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Crystal Dannar 839-2128 cdannar@fs.fed.us
Legal Location <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T28N, R3E, Sec 8, Pts N2, Idaho County, BM.
District Ranger / Line Officer's Name <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Jeffrey Shinn
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	No
Which CE Category does this project fit? <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(18) Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas or other water bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled.

A Project Record or written Decision are not required for projects using 36 CFR 220.6 (d) categories.

If a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) project, does the Decision Maker want it to go through the Small NEPA process?

Yes No

*If no, this form **does not** need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.*

If yes, provide the category below, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner.

CE Category: 36 CFR 220.6 (d)()

At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?

Internal X External*

Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. Postcards with a link to the website/scoping letter will be used for larger mailings. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see * below), unless otherwise specified.*

**For external scoping, please to complete block below. Note: please enter "NA" if left empty on purpose*

Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. *, with their mailing address and/or email address, who will be included for external Scoping. DO NOT provide only a name.

NA

** The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will routinely be scoped. The following will also be included on all SN scoping/ mailing lists: Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Thomas E. Peterson and Bill Mulligan.*

What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

X **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

_____ **Moderate level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little broader). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

12B – Manage for timber and other multiple uses on sustained yield basis.
B – 90% Fishery Habitat Potential Maintained.

What are the desired conditions (*relevant to your project*) for the Management Area(s) listed above?

Water 1. Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.

Desired conditions are described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans.

Is the project in an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)? Yes* No X

If yes, which one?

** If yes, fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* No X

If yes, which one(s)?

** If yes, contact Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us, 935-4270, **BEFORE** submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes X No

Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area? Yes No X

If yes, which one?

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the existing condition of the project area.

Allotment Summary:

Allotment	Permittee	Permitted Cow/Calf Pairs (cc)	Permitted Season	Permit Type
White Bird Creek	Kevin Zumwalt	200	5/25 – 11/1	Term
	Ray and Lisa Holes	200	5/25 – 11/1	Term
	Sub-Total:	400 c/c		

Riparian Condition and Trend:

With data reaching back to the 1950's Parker Three-Step Condition and Trend benchmarks (C&Ts) provide the best opportunity to gain understanding of the long-term rangeland conditions and trends within the plant community.

Excerpt from Steve Heibert's 2010 plot evaluation:

A C&T plot located in the middle of the project area stream reach was established in 1958 to monitor the effects of cattle grazing and has been reread five times, with the last reading in 2010. Notes indicate that this is a wet meadow, but often goes dry in the fall. *[My observations are that once rains cease water dries up quickly in the channel and is only found here and there in small pools in deep sections of the creek.]* Grazing by livestock is moderate, depending on the year, but records indicate that heavy use often occurred in the past. Grass and clover seeding occurred in the past. Conifer encroachment is minimal.

Site is dominated by native and non-native forage grasses. Forage production is high. Bentgrass and tufted hairgrass have increased while bluegrass/clover, sedges, and pullup muhly have decreased. The reason for decline in sedges is unknown. Camas is present but not common and is most likely increasing. Plant density has increased over time. Condition is excellent and trend upward.

Soils are deep loams in excellent condition. Moss and litter are increasing, while bare soil is static at a low level.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action*?

This proposed action is a result of BMP monitoring conducted in the summer of 2018. This monitoring brought awareness to the headwaters of Pinnacle Creek which flow seasonally through Swartz Meadow. The purpose of the proposed Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA), structures completely or partially built by humans that mimic many of the functions of natural beaver dams, are to address the incised channel, bank sloughing, and sediment capture of the sandy loam substrate. To compliment BDAs after installation dead/dying and/or live timber will be felled near the BDAs and other sensitive areas of stream to reduce livestock impacts. Timber felling will be through a separate Small NEPA submission since it pertains to multiple locations, refer to Natural Barrier Stream Protection project proposal.

** The purpose and need describes: Why is the action being proposed at this location at this time (what is the problem, the need for the action?)? And what is the desired goal/outcome (the purpose) of the action?*

Describe the Proposed Action.

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter (*external only*), by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document.

Please provide detailed descriptions of the following in narrative paragraph form:

- who will do the work,
- where the work will take place,
- how the project area / site will be accessed,
- what specific actions / activities will be implemented,
- what equipment will be used to accomplish the above actions,
- what monitoring / additional actions will be done post-implementation,
- when the work will start, and how long it will take to complete the project.

Will the project change access restrictions? If so, how? **No.**

Will any permits, etc. be needed before the project can start? If so, what and from who? **No.**

Personnel/Materials: BDA materials will be provided by the USFS, and are currently in stock. Construction labor will be provided by YCC crew(s). Tools/equipment may be provided by USFS if not furnished by YCC crew.

Location/Access: The headwaters of Pinnacle Creek, i.e. Swartz Meadow, is accessible by user created ATV trails.

Equipment/Disturbance: Disturbance will be limited to ATV access (trails already present) and use of hand tools. Disturbance is anticipated to be minor.

Construction: Exact location of BDAs along the 1-mile project area reach shall be determined during implementation under the direction of the Forest Hydrologist. Due to the narrow width of the channel the structure will likely involve setting non-treated post material such as cedar or tamarack to secure large woody debris or weaved natural material such as limbs and alder brush to create a screen to catch sediment.

Monitoring: Streambank monitoring occurs routinely during the grazing season and will be conducted post-implementation to ensure BDAs are kept in working order.

Schedule: Upon approval, work may start Spring 2019 and be completed in two stages. First BDAs, followed by directional timber felling to protect BDAs and stream from livestock impacts.

Again, please provide a narrative description of the Proposed Action.

List the Design Criteria / Mitigation Measures * to be included with the Proposed Action.

Item #	Project Design & Mitigation Measures	Implementation Method	Effectiveness
1	Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)	Applicable to all activities and personnel	High, based on inventories
2	Identify and report invasive species infestations, on or adjacent to the activity sites, to the District Weed Coordinator.	Applicable to all activities and personnel	High, based on inventories

** Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form*

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mhays01@fs.fed.us; 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, dbawdon@fs.fed.us;

Heritage – Steve Lucas, slucas@fs.fed.us; 983-4040

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, cvalle@fs.fed.us; 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, martinjones@fs.fed.us; 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us; 935-4270

Soils – Robert Bergstrom, robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us; 963-4287

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, chnoyes@fs.fed.us; 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, jameslutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202

PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
 - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
 - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
 - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
 - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5__1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
 - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
 - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
 - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

PROPONENT: When submitting the shapefile(s) you must include in the email how the location(s) of the project feature(s), i.e. line, point, and/or polygon, were determined (see below):

- Field-collected GPS data;
- From existing corporate GIS data (provide name of GIS layer);
- Created (digitized) from an aerial photo;
- Created (digitized) from the existing corporate GIS data;
- Created (digitized) from the NPCLW Visitor Map;
- Other (describe).

Projects in Roadless Area

<p>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></p>
<p>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	<p>Classification(s):</p>
<p>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</p>	
<p>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</p>	
<p>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</p>	

Additional Information: